THE SECOND DAY.

5TH JANUARY 1907.

The Assembly met again at 12 noon on Saturday the 5th January 1907.

46. Extension of the period of Kuthagapattom lease to 12 years.

Mr. Krishnan Narayanan (Ampalapuzha) said that many cocoanut trees standing on Sirkar lands were given on Kuthagapattom lease in Ampalapuzha and other taluks, but as the period of the lease had been recently reduced to one year, the lessees found the tenure in no way advantageous to them, while in many cases it was not possible for Government to get lessees at all. He suggested that 12 years might be fixed as a reasonable term for such leases as thereby the interests of the ryots as well as the Government could be secured.

Reply.—There is no hard and fast rule on the subject. Each case will depend on its merits, and as long a term will be allowed as will secure to the ryot the benefit of his improvements, preserving at the same time the interests of Government.

47. Reduction of assessment on jenmom lands when jenmies sell their rights over them.

Mr. Narayanan Jatavedar Namburipad (Muvattupuzha) represented that the assessment now imposed on jenmom lands when the jenmies sold their rights on them was unfairly heavy and should be reduced. He added that the Huzur order under which this was done could not have the force of law as it was not passed in the Legislative Council.

Reply.—The conditions having changed by such sale, it does not appear necessary to continue the special concession. When a jenmi parts with his property, it changes its character and becomes almost like any ordinary property. Still, having regard to its original incidence, some concession is even now shown. This is a matter of assessment and does not require legislative sanction. Government regret they cannot re-open the question.

48. Desirability of modifying the rules for the recovery of the value of trees standing on Puduvals.

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Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillay B. A. (Kottayam), Mr. K. G. Raghava Menon (Changanachery) and Mr. Agasti Agasti (Todupuzha) also requested the attention of Government to this subject.

Mr. Dominic Thomman (Agricultural Association, Changanachery) said that when cherikal lands were registered the holders had to pay the value of all reserved trees standing on them, the only alternative being that they might be removed by Government on the application of the grantee. In regard to lands entered as puduvals, the classifier had to ascertain the time when they were reclaimed and the period during which they had been under cultivation and enter in the remark column of the classification register the number of reserved trees standing on them with their girth-measurment and value. If the amount entered in this column was not paid within three days after receipt of notice, the puduvals were treated as assessed waste at the disposal of Government. The member submitted that these rules were hard, and especially in the case of cherikal lands the reserved trees which were quite unfit for fuel or building purposes would not fetch any price unless they were transported at excessive cost to towns lying far away. He therefore suggested: (1) that trees which were not fit for building purposes and whose leaves could be utilised for manure should be excluded from the class of reserved trees; (2) that reserved trees below 8 inches in girth and hence liable to be destroyed by wild elephants should not be taken into account; (3) that trees which were damaged and whose timber was useless should be similarly left out of account; (4) that reserved trees which did not come under the above 3 heads should either be removed by Government on the application of the grantee or the latter simply required to preserve them as the property of Government; and (5) that, if in any locality the ryots found they could dispose of those trees at sirkar rates, the option of purchase might be given to them and the tree-value recovered in 10 yearly instalments.

Reply.—The suggestions will be considered in connection with the question of Cherikal settlement.

In regard to puduvals, the rates now fixed for the valuation of reserved trees are moderate in the opinion of Government and cannot be altered.

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